

## **Meeting Minutes**

February 2, 2012 • Department of Public Works • Conference Room, 4:30PM

- Approve January minutes: Approved unanimously.

- Update: Transfer Station pre-paid bag challenge

As she had not heard back from us (after October 13 meeting), Rebecca Hull was depositing small bags of trash at the Transfer Station without payment (was not using pre-paid bags). Steve said she could not do this. Several other phone calls. She is now willing to try putting smaller bags into a large pre-paid bag and leave it on the sidewalk for a Transfer Station employee to lift into the bin. She has paid for previous disposal. She will try this for six months, and she and Susan will talk in July to discuss how it is working. A large, minimum quantity required in order to purchase small bags. South Hadley has 3 sizes of bags, Northampton has 2 or 3 sizes. Both towns still have active landfills and trash (bag) disposal is subsidized; comparison is difficult. Their costs are expected to increase over time. Pricing of smaller bags is typically higher than larger bags per volume in other communities.

- Update: Amherst Solid Waste Survey

Have sent a copy to Town Hall. There were a few small changes. The possible payment question was removed. Several questions about what transfer stickers people currently have was added. Brenda will review for “jargon” language. Laurel suggested the possibility of having the facilities to allow survey response to the survey on the common during community events.

- Finalize foam-free project plan

Susan will ask the public health department for an updated list of town restaurants.

- Plan League of Women Voters lunch presentation

Anticipate 10-20 people. Friday March 9, 2012, 12:00-1:00 at the Jones Library. Short summary of committee work and Susan’s role in town, reasons behind eliminating foam, working in a cooperative manner with restaurants, timeline, what are the alternatives, experience of businesses that are already foam free, discussion of what the LWV might do to support this initiative. Goal to obtain LWV endorsement and strategy ideas. Have handouts available. Brenda, John, and Meg will all likely be able to be there. Meg will come up with an agenda/plan. Martha will notify the Northampton LWV.

- Discuss Trash-Free Lunch Day 2012

Susan met with the school’s director of food services. Middle School and High School would like to participate. Susan agreed to plan for participation in 2013. Held on the last Friday before spring break usually, just before the sustainability festival. 4/27/12 is another alternative or a date in May. Meg suggests that we use the 27<sup>th</sup>, but Susan needs

to check her schedule. Susan asks for our thoughts on how to create a level playing field at all schools, as in the past some schools have encouraged students to take their trash home. Meg suggests that we send a letter to administrators asking that they communicate with the lunchroom staff about the process. Susan will send the flyer that goes to the schools to committee members for review and input. School with the least trash wins a 6' sub.

- Determine RRMC role in 2012 Amherst Sustainability Festival

April 21, 2012. Susan is feeling discouraged by the Eco Hero hunt. Other options include a toy collection and swap, textile collection, human powered parade. Brenda suggests doing minimal Eco Hero (signs only) and something else. Parade with children might be difficult because the event takes place during school vacation week. Brenda has facilitated an Earth Day parade before which is a lot of work. Possible weather is also a concern (very cold and rainy last year). Date change has been discussed, but Stephanie Ciccarello has already sent notification to the vendors.

## **TO DO LIST:**

- Brenda will review solid waste survey for “jargon” language.
- Susan will ask the public health department for an updated list of town restaurants.
- Martha will notify the Northampton LWV about the Amherst LWV foam lunchtime forum.
- Susan will check her calendar for possible trash free lunch date on 4/27/12.
- Susan will send the flyer that goes to the schools about trash free lunch day to committee members for review and input.
- Meg will come up with an agenda/plan for the LWV presentation.